

THE
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Weekly Trade Circular

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THE
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CONDUCTED BY

E. L. YOUMANS.

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AUGUST 15, 1872.

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ADVANCE BOOK-NOTES.

The Lives of the Saints. The second volume of Baring-Gould's new work will soon be presented to the public by Pott, Young & Co. It includes the lives of the Saints for the month of February, and in point of value and attractiveness stands on an equality with its wonderfully successful predecessor. Mr. Baring-Gould wields his pen with notable fluency, and the real life and vivid coloring of his style are delightfully effective in setting off the spirited action of the legends. The attention is fixed while the mind is informed and the spirit raised. It is not necessary to be either a Catholic or an Episcopalian to enjoy and profit by these biographies. They are striking presentations of lofty truth, stern virtue, and noble self-sacrifice. The writer has observed a becoming reverence in dealing with the traditions of a religious body, has accepted their substance as he found it, and only exercised his art in so disposing the lights and shadows as to bring out boldly the distinctive features and the beautiful expressions. His work, thus far, is well done. There is an especially interesting chapter on "The Martyrs of Japan."

Unawares is the title of a new novel by the author of the "Rose Garden." It is a fresh and dainty bit of fiction, delightfully piquant and picturesque, and wonderfully real and life-like. The scene is laid in a little town of France—a "quaint old town of toil and traffic"—and the story opens vivaciously with the gossiping and chaffering of a group of peasants about the stone fountain in the "Place." The occasion of the tumult is the death of a mysterious stranger and the bereavement of the unknown mademoiselle, M. Moreau, rich and eccentric, suddenly dies in the little town, bequeathing the most of his wealth to his nephew, Fabien, then in parts unknown, and appointing M. Deshoulières, his physician, of whose character he could only judge on the short acquaintance of the fatal illness, executor of the will and guardian of the step-niece, Thérèse. This odd appointment and some extraordinary conditions of the will afterward lead to complications and suspicions. Thérèse is the heroine, and in love with Fabien. A tender, delicate girl, whom the doctor first pities for her loneliness and then loves for herself; silently, when he learns of his rival's success, but deeply and nobly. Fabien returns; discloses a character miserably selfish and frivolous, ignores the faithful waiting love of Thérèse, rudely shatters her lofty ideal; or, not that precisely—for it seems that Thérèse had taken all M. Deshoulières' goodness, nobility and tenderness, and set them up in her heart, calling the image Fabien. There comes a waft; the shadow is gone. The story ends fittingly. Roberts Brothers publish it this week.

George Macdonald has arranged with Roberts Brothers for the publication of his autobiographical story, "The Vicar's Daughter," already widely known through the pages of various magazines, whose editors are quick to see what sort of writing is pleasing to the popular taste. The book is rich in sprightly conversation, and uses the medium of ordinary small talk to express many a beautiful thought, to give common-sense views of numerous social questions, and to solve reasonably more than one troubled problem in morals. In short, it is a new work by George Macdonald, and is a very hearty expression of the mind of that very popular writer. The volume will contain some four hundred pages, will be embellished by a round dozen of full-page wood-cuts, and will be put at the low price of \$1.50. To be issued this week.

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— Key to Above. 18°, pp. 186. Bds. 50c. *Holt.*
- ***Baring-Gould, Rev. S.** Lives of the Saints. Vols. 1 and 2, for January and February. 12°. Per vol. \$2.50. *Pott.*
- Bayne, Peter.** The Days of Jezebel. A Historical Drama. 12°. \$1.50. *Gould & L.*
- Chapman, E. N. (M.D.).** Hysterology. A Treatise, Descriptive and Clinical, on the Diseases and Displacements of the Uterus. Illustr. 8°, pp. 504. \$4.50. *Wood.*
- ***Chatterbox, 1872.** 4°, pp. 411. \$1.50. *Pott.*
- Cohen, J. Solis (M.D.).** Diseases of the Throat, embracing Affections of the Pharynx, Esophagus, Larynx, Trachea, and Nasal Passages. Illustr. 8°, pp. 581. \$5. *Wood.*
- Egan, Pierce.** Mark Jarret's Daisy. The Wild Flowers of Hazlewood. (Pierce Egan's Stories. No. 15.) 8°, pp. 260. Pap. \$1. *De Witt.*
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- Lexow, Rudolph.** Romane und Novellen. 2 vols. 12°. (Deutsch-Amerikan. Bibl. vols. 7 and 8.) Per vol. 75c.; pap. 50c. *Steiger.*
- Livy.** Histories. Books I., XXI., and XXII., with Extracts from Books IX., XXVI., XXXV., XXXVIII., XXXIX., XLV. Edited and annotated by Thomas Chase, M.A. (Chase and Stewart's Classical Series.) 16°, pp. 364. \$1.50. *Eldredge.*
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- ****National Education Association.** The Addresses and Journal of Proceedings. Sessions of the year 1871, at St. Louis. 8°, pp. 232. *N. Y. and Washington, James H. Holmes.*
- ****Peck, Charles H.** Synopsis of New York Uncollected. (Communicated to the Institute, Feb. 20, 1872.) 8°, pp. 6. Pap.
- ***Reynolds, Osborne (M.A.).** Sewer Gas, and How to Keep it out of Houses. A Handbook on House Drainage. 12°, pp. 34. 60c. *Macmillan.*
- Thackeray, W. M.** The Paris Sketch-Book: The Irish Sketch-Book; and Notes of a Journey from Cornhill to Cairo. (Kensington ed.) Illustr. 8°. \$2. *Osgood.*
- Tuckerman, Edward (M.A.).** Genera Lichenum. An Arrangement of the North American Lichens. 8°, pp. 281. Pap. \$3. *Amherst, E. Nelson.*
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CORRESPONDENCE.

FROM PHILADELPHIA.

AUG. 12, 1872.—Philadelphia has for so long labored under the reproach of backwardness in literary matters, more particularly those of the periodical class, that it is with heartfelt pleasure I sit down to pen this epistle, which shall be solely devoted to magazines and papers, and which will show what we are really doing in that line. Our good Quaker City, you must know, if you don't know it already, has a very Quakerish way of doing things. She makes little or no fuss about the preparations for any great achievement, sounds no trumpets before her, and covers no journalistic dead walls with flaming preliminary posters; but when the fulness of time has come, and the work is completed, she quietly draws aside the curtain, and pointing to a finished masterpiece says simply, "Look there!"

So she has been working, almost unnoticed, at her periodical literature, until her present corps of weeklies and monthlies has reached a high order of excellence; and more are coming. Don't turn the leaf in dismay, thinking that I am going to treat you to a disquisition on each item of the fearfully-extended list of monthlies and hebdomadals to which Philadelphia gives birth. I spare you that infliction, but I insist on talking about some of them.

First, then, is *Lippincott's Magazine*, a periodical which in the past, it must be confessed, has been content with a seat by no means on the front bench, but which has been picking up amazingly of late, and promises a September number of such excellence that I have begged the proof sheets for the express purpose of dissecting it and giving you a preliminary taste of its quality.

Imprimis, as we used to say when we made our wills, is a scantily but prettily illustrated paper, entitled "Through William Penn's Low Counties," a poetic (not poetical) description of the oldest Pennsylvania of all, viz., Chester and the country lying between that ancient burgh and Philadelphia. The description of Chester is capitally done. The writer lingers and dreams among primitive anecdotes, musty records, and "old title-deeds, signed with bears and turtles, the hieroglyphs of the Indians, until the reader, following him, loses consciousness of the present realities in a dreamy feast of the imagination, from which it is scarcely pleasant to be waked incontinently, and loaded on a nineteenth century railway train for through shipment to Philadelphia without change of cars, catching only passing glimpses of lovely towns on the way. One almost fancies he sees the shadow of the editorial shears impending over the closing pages. The article is unsigned, but if I read "between the lines" correctly, it is to be attributed to one Earl Shinn, a gentleman who has long since won laurels as a capital letter-writer, an excellent artist, and a keen art critic, and who is rapidly gaining fame as a magazinist by a brilliant series of articles in *Lippincott's*, descriptive of "The Private Art Collections of Philadelphia," of which that of Colonel Thomas A. Scott, the Railroad King, is chatily served up in the present number. Can you judge of the pudding by tasting the plums? Then here is an appetizer from the writer's sketch of Penn's first visit to Chester:

The governor then, cutting with hasty prow the fresh river that formed his boundary line, passed between the crimson woods, so new a sight to him, and made for Chester. We can fancy the scene of his progress, attended by the canoes of the naked and anointed savages, and by the boats of the Swedes, who voluntarily used the river and stream for their streets in preference to the vine-entangled laurel chapparral of the shore. Landing at Wade's mansion for prayers and

thanksgiving, he found himself, with exquisite emotions among the old comrades he had known in England, now living, like ancient hermits of Syria, in caves of the earth and dens. Those first days in the American Thebaid must have been like the realization of an enchanted pastoral. The Quakers were fraternal; the Indians were "very loving;" the Swedes, the ancestors of such stately Philadelphian families as the Swansons and Stillés, were a kind of mild satyrs in their leather jerkins and moccasins, their leather petticoats and jackets for the females: they assimilated with the new chief with all the enthusiasm of Calibans, showing an incidental and pronounced tendency to get drunk over the happy event. All was golden-hued, and the very larder was worthy of Canaan. The Essex House, Wade's handsome mansion (built in 1675), was open to all who would feast. The Indian hunters, their bodies smeared with black earth from the seaside against the heat, staggered in with fat bucks, sold at two shillings; wild pigeons were like clouds; swans were abundant and thirty-pound turkeys sold for a shilling; the Delaware was alive with fish, the sturgeons vaulting into the air several at once, and sometimes leaping into the canoes and oversetting them; while sad (*aloes* Penn calls them) sold for twopence. Here, too—we hope the historical painter will not forget it—the brave governor faced his first American oyster, six inches long.

More prosaic, but not less interesting to "people in our line of business"—as the alderman said to the king—is a note of some pioneer paper mills:

Up on Chester Creek the "Ivy Mills" paper-mill, which was the pioneer of this species of manufacture on the American continent, still stands: it was already ancient when Benjamin Franklin's printing-paper and the sheets for the Continental currency were made there. Quite naturally, the Ivy Mills "smiled a sort of ghastly smile" at the great mechanical revolution in paper-making, and was the very last hand-mill in the United States to succumb to machinery. A mile off is another curiosity, the Wilcox Mills, where the peculiar paper now used by the Treasury Department for the United States currency is made:—an agent of the department residing near the mill, with a force to guard it from violation. In one of the buildings the Messrs. Wilcox manufacture most of the music-paper used in the United States, and a grade, celebrated in the trade, of collar-paper. Near Glen Riddle, on Chester Creek, at Crozer's Mill, Mr. John P. Crozer established his colossal fortune by the alteration of old historic paper and grist mills into woollen and cotton factories, and died full of honors, leaving a savor of good works behind him to perfume his memory, besides the enormous business interests confided to his sons.

Suppose we let that do for the first article. The next, also anonymous, is a sprightly and profusely illustrated paper, called "Wanderings in Palestine." Mrs. Sarah B. Wister, a lady well and favorably known by her charming translations of German novels, begins a series of papers entitled, "A Summer between the Four Seas," in which she sees England and English scenery and customs with fresh eyes, and describes them with a wonderfully graphic pen. It is surprising how much that is new she finds to tell us about this much-bewritten country.

The stories in this number of *Lippincott's* are few, but good. The serial is a quaint but interesting story, by William Black, author of "A Daughter of Heth." It is called, "The Strange Adventures of a Phaeton," and narrates the haps and mishaps which befall that vehicle and its inmates in the course of a protracted journey. "The Black Pearl," a story from the French of Victorien Sardou, is also a capital thing in its way. There is an essay by Ralph Keeler on "The Great American Hotel"—not as a specimen, but as a genus—which is good, but a trifle heavy. There are two or three good poems, the one which will take best being "The Wonderful Peace Jubilee," a close parody—rather too close in places—of Dr. Holmes's famous "One-Hoss Shay." There is a good deal of humor in the poem, but the catastrophe is weak. It is by Lelia W. Partridge. Here is the list of the performers:

Only three millions attended the drills;
That was the chorus, so said the bills.
Leutner and Rudersdorf did the trills;
The tenors were Turks from over the seas;
The bassos from Spain, and all grandees;
While the trebles and altos were little Chinese,
Who learned to sing while picking the teas.
The orchestra numbered a million more,
With Abt and Strauss, and "The Emperor's Four,"

Numberless bands from near and far
 (Two, arrived from the Polar Star,
 Came in a Pullman Palace Car).
 One organ, so big no ship was able
 To bring it over, so sent by cable;
 Ten of the size in Music Hall;
 Ninety grand pianos in all,
 And fifty babies on purpose to squall;
 Cats and jewsharps, boys and frogs,
 Gongs, hand-organs, donkeys and dogs,
 And whistles made from the biggest logs;
 Cannons, gunboats, parrots and bells,
 Anvils, lions—everything tell—
 To the big "Peace Drum," so high and wide,
 Made from the elephant Romeo's hide
 (They carried, 'twas said, a band inside).
 That was the way he put things through!
 "There!" said Gilmore, "I think that'll do!"

In addition to their own magazine, Lippincott & Co. publish *The Medical Times*, the fruits of which are seen in the immense number of medical works issued by their house—and reprint *The Contemporary Review*, *St. Paul's Magazine*, *The Sunday Magazine*, *Good Words*, and *Good Words for the Young*, all high class periodicals, which together form a feast of reason not to be matched by any other single house in America. For some reason, however, these English reprints, excellent though they are, fail to take well with the American reading public. Tariff or no tariff, cheap or dear, there is a commendable prejudice in favor of home production—in this respect, at least. I say commendable, "not that I love Cæsar less, but that I love Rome more." I like to see English writers succeed, but my sympathy is with American writers.

So much for *Lippincott's*. Out in Germantown, a reprint monthly, called *The Transatlantic*, is published by a firm who get up a magazine fully equal to *Every Saturday* in range of subjects and taste in selecting them, but who are getting rich very deliberately because they take very little pains to push their magazine. They have a good thing, but nobody finds it out. *The Transatlantic* changed its cover recently, and was thereby improved in appearance. It gives the cream of the foreign contemporary floating literature, but for that very reason is open to the same objections as Lippincott's reprints. Singular, isn't it, that English tales and sketches should fall flat where trashy English novels are sold by the wagon-load?

G. Wharton Hamersly, the publisher of *The Transatlantic*, publishes also a sixteen page weekly, which, under the title of *Public Opinion*, gives all the leading editorial articles of the great dailies. This is a feature which has built up the *Evening Telegraph*. The range of subjects in *Public Opinion* is wider than in the *Telegraph*, and as the enterprise is near the end of its second year and steadily increasing in attractiveness, I conclude that this also is a success.

Our friend, T. Ellwood Zell, well-known as a publisher of ponderous scientific works, is also about to enter the field of periodical literature. He has already set afloat the *Bazaar*, an illustrated monthly advertising sheet of eight large pages, the "freightage" of which consists of fashion articles. The fourth number, that for September, will have an edition of 24,000 copies. A more pretentious work, however, will be *Zell's Monthly Magazine*, of which the first number will be that for September. This will be an 8vo magazine, very similar in size and appearance to *Scribner's Monthly*. The type used is new, and of the same style, but the cover will be green, and its ornamentation will have less of the arabesque and more of the geometric than that of *Scribner's*. The magazine will be chiefly devoted to the exposition of popular science, a little lighter in tone than Appleton's new *Monthly*, and with more illustrations to enliven

it. The editor is Dr. L. de Colange, who edited "Zell's Encyclopædia," a work of which five and a half million numbers, amounting to over ninety thousand copies, have been sold.

I have procured a copy of the list of contents of the first number of *Zell's Monthly*, but have only seen proof of the first article, "Sketches of Neapolitan Life," which is lively, gossipy, full of deftly insinuated information, and sure to be received with favor by the editorial fraternity at this dull season, as it is "first-rate to cut." I would copy a story of how "King Bomba" came by his title if I were not afraid of trying your patience too severely. The following list contains the titles of the articles in *Zell's Monthly* for September: "Sketches of Neapolitan Life," "The Mother of Goethe," "Future Changes of the Earth," "Claudius," a tale from the German, "No Rain," "The Natural Sciences," "European Exhibitions," "Franklin's Epitaph," "Poets of the Day: Tennyson," "Scientific Summary," "Editorial Department."

Both the *Monthly* and the *Bazaar* are printed by A. C. Bryson & Co., a firm noted for excellent work. The numbers of the *Bazaar* are beautifully printed, that *experimentum crucis*, a delicate engraving, being reproduced with a clearness and accuracy that must delight the artist.

And so, yours truly,
 H. C. S.

The Methodist Book Agents.

[From *Harper's Weekly*, Aug. 10.]

THE Rev. Reuben Nelson, D.D., and Mr. John M. Phillips, whose portraits we present to the readers of *Harper's Weekly*, were elected by the late General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church managers of the Book Concern at New York. Dr. Nelson is slightly past middle life, and has been known for many years as one of the most successful educators in the State of Pennsylvania. He has been at the head of the Wyoming Conference Seminary at Kingston, in that State, for more than twenty-four years. Kingston Seminary is attended every year by several hundred students of both sexes. The studies are preparatory to a collegiate course of education, and are pursued also by many youth who design to become teachers. In this position Dr. Nelson has won an enviable reputation. His tact, courtesy, and financial ability have made him universally popular.

Dr. Nelson's colleague, M. Phillips, is the first layman ever elected to the Book Agency. He was born in Kentucky, but the greater part of his life has been spent in Ohio. He entered the Methodist Publishing House at Cincinnati, when quite a youth, as a mailing clerk. Here he has spent over thirty years in various positions, among the rest as book-keeper and cashier. He was considered an invaluable officer by the agents under whom he served; he was also at the time of his election a member of a leading banking firm in Cincinnati. At the General Conference Mr. Phillips was chosen one of the secretaries, an honor never given to a layman at any previous session of the Conference. He has also been active in promoting education in Ohio. Both these gentlemen are in vigorous health and are giving close personal attention to their duties.

The Methodist Book Concern has grown naturally out of the system of printing and circulating books adopted by John Wesley. The founder of Methodism was the earliest deviser in England of cheap publications for the common people. Besides spreading his own writings, he abridged and reprinted standard works, and required his preach-

ers to carry them through the circuits, and sell them from house to house. He was his own publisher, and was successful in the management of his business. In 1790 a valuation of his stock was taken by two London booksellers; it was returned as worth a little under £5,000. All the income from the sales he gave away. Very rarely he drew upon his profits to the extent of £5 for a new suit of clothes. His charitable disbursements out of these profits ranged from £500 to £1,000 yearly. He was enabled by this means to devote to charity in the course of his life not less than \$150,000. His personal income was £30 yearly, which he never exceeded.

His books and business were left by his will to the preachers in trust for the promotion of the general objects of the societies which he had founded. American Methodists very closely copied his methods of book circulation. They established a Book Concern between 1783 and 1786 in New York. Its capital was \$600, furnished by the first book agent, John Dickens. The first book published was "Thomas à Kempis," abridged by Wesley; then followed the Hymn-book, Baxter's "Saints' Rest," and the "Discipline." The early agents performed all the necessary work of the Concern in person. As late as 1820 they did their own editing and clerking, and packing, hooping, and shipping of boxes. It will be readily inferred from these facts that the growth of the Concern was exceedingly slow. In 1799 its whole capital stock was not over \$4,000, and out of this the agents had to pay \$3,000 of debts. After the year 1800, when it had been in existence nearly twenty years, its progress was rapid. In 1804 its capital stock was returned at \$27,000, in 1816 at \$147,000, and in 1820 at \$170,000. These returns were found subsequently to be fallacious. In 1824 the General Conference ordered a large discount to be made, then and after, on the gross capital reported, for losses and depreciated stock. In consequence of this order the capital reported fell in 1828 to \$130,000.

But the institution was still in a precarious condition. The books were sent to the preachers to be sold on commission. Each presiding elder received a supply, which was charged to him. It was his duty to distribute his stock among his preachers, and to see that they in turn sold the books to the people. For all stock thus disposed of the preachers received eighteen per cent. commission, and the presiding elders six. The result of this system can be easily imagined. The property of the Concern was scattered all through the country, some of it properly cared for, much of it not. The more business apparently done, the worse the agents might be off. The genius of one man, John Emory, who was assistant agent from 1824 to 1828, and chief agent from 1828 to 1832, devised a remedy, and placed the institution upon its present solid basis. He persuaded the General Conference to change "the principle of conducting the business from issues of books on commission to actual sales for cash or notes." The effect of his ministration was marvellous. In 1828 the Concern owed \$101,000. By 1832 this debt had been discharged, five building lots had been purchased in an eligible situation, several buildings had been erected thereon and paid for, large additions had been made to the stock of stereotype plates, and the dividends to the annual conferences increased from \$150 to each conference to \$800 to each. Dr. Emory was one of the rare men who are effective in every direction to which their powers are turned. His administrative talents were extraordinary. He was the first writer of his time in American Methodism, and withal he was a man of

saintly purity. To him and his associates, Nathan Bangs and Beverly Waugh, may be ascribed the laying of the foundations of the long-continued prosperity of the Methodist Book Concern.

The Concern was from the beginning intended as a charitable institution. Its profits were, by a rule of the discipline, to be sacredly set apart for the relief of worn-out preachers, and the widows and orphans of those preachers who had died in the service. The early agents were picked men of high repute for piety. Some of them were made bishops; others, as Cooper and Bangs, took rank among the chiefs of American Methodism. They retired from office, as they entered it, poor. Those of them who were blessed with a little patrimony were satisfied if it was not drawn upon to eke out their very moderate support. The office was regarded as one of the most religious as well as one of the most important in the gift of the Church. Such an event as an agent's growing rich in it was not even dreamed of.

But times change, and men change with them. Fast as the Book Concern grew, the Methodist church grew faster. There came at length to be more worn-out preachers and widows and orphans to be helped than any one business house could relieve. The church assumed the care of these beneficiaries herself, and provided for them far better than the Book Concern had. The contributions of the Methodist people to these most deserving representatives of its ministry now reach \$141,144 annually. The Book Concern ceased to be a charitable institution. For some years its surplus funds were employed in supporting the bishops, but this burden has also been assumed by the church at large. It is now purely a business establishment, engaged in making and selling religious books, and adding its profits to its capital.

The business which began in a single room in Fulton street, New York, has developed into a system of branch houses spreading all over the United States. At Cincinnati is the Western Book Concern, rivaling in the magnitude of its operations the parent house in New York. There are depositories for the sale of books at Boston, Buffalo, Auburn, Pittsburg, Chicago, St. Louis, Atlanta, and San Francisco. Nearly twenty periodicals, weekly, monthly, and quarterly, are issued, and extensively circulated among the people. The catalogue of book publications is large, and contains most of the Methodist standard works. To some extent the preachers continue to act as colporteurs or agents in selling the books, but the old practice in this respect is rapidly dying out.

The effect of Dr. Lanahan's disclosures is seen in the entire change in the administration of the Concern, and in the appointment of the gentlemen whose portraits are given on this page. They have already given notice that they intend to establish a new order of affairs. The property will be carefully inventoried, new books opened, and the Concern will be administered under the supervision of a local committee. It is not flattery to say that these gentlemen enjoy the confidence of all who know them, and can be counted on to do all they undertake. The hero of the struggle has retired to enjoy the rest which he has so richly earned. He carries with him to his retirement the respect and admiration of all men who honor integrity and rejoice in its triumph over wrong.

COLONEL Geo. W. Mumford, former Secretary of the Commonwealth of Virginia, is engaged on an historical work, embracing his recollections of men and events during the long period of his connection with the State government.

New Postal Regulations.

Extract from the complete Code published in the "Western Postal Record."

SEC. 99. That the rate of postage on newspapers, excepting weeklies, periodicals not exceeding two ounces in weight, and circulars when the same are deposited in a letter carrier office for delivery by the office or its carriers, shall be uniform at one cent each, but periodicals weighing more than two ounces shall be subject to a postage of two cents each, and these rates shall be prepaid by stamps.

SEC. 107. That no money order shall be issued for more than fifty dollars, and the fees therefor shall be, for orders not exceeding ten dollars, five cents; exceeding ten and not exceeding twenty dollars, ten cents; exceeding twenty and not exceeding thirty dollars, fifteen cents; exceeding thirty and not exceeding forty dollars, twenty cents; exceeding forty dollars, twenty-five cents.

SEC. 127. That mail matter shall be registered only on the application of the party posting the same, and the fee thereof shall not exceed twenty cents in addition to the regular postage, to be in all cases prepaid; and all such fees shall be accounted for in such manner that the Postmaster-General shall direct: *Provided*, That letters upon the official business of the Post Office Department which require registering shall be registered free of charge, and pass through the mails free of charge.

SEC. 130. That mailable matter shall be divided into three classes; first, letters; second, regular printed matter; third, miscellaneous matter.

SEC. 131. That mailable matter of the first class shall embrace all correspondence, wholly or partly in writing, except book manuscripts and corrected proof sheets passing between authors and publishers.

SEC. 132. That mailable matter of the second class shall embrace all matter exclusively in print, and regularly issued at stated periods from a known office of publication, without addition by writing, mark, or sign.

SEC. 133. That mailable matter of the third class shall embrace all pamphlets, occasional publications, transient newspapers, magazines, handbills, posters, unsealed circulars, prospectuses, books, book manuscripts, proof sheets, corrected proof sheets, maps, prints, engravings, blanks, flexible patterns, samples of merchandise not exceeding twelve ounces in weight, sample cards, phonographic paper, letter envelopes and wrappers, cards, plain and ornamental paper, photographic representations of different types, seeds, cuttings, bulbs, roots, scions, and all other matter which may be declared mailable by law, and all other articles not above the weight prescribed by law, which are not, from their form or nature, liable to destroy, deface, or otherwise injure the contents of the mail-bag, or the person of any one engaged in the postal service. All liquids, poisons, glass, explosive materials and obscene books shall be excluded from the mails. All matter of the third class, excepting books and other printed matter, book manuscripts, proof sheets, and corrected proof sheets shall not exceed twelve ounces in weight, and all matter of the third class shall be subject to examination and to rates of postage as hereinafter provided. Samples of metals, ores, and mineralogical specimens shall not exceed twelve ounces in weight, and shall be subject to examination and to rates of postage as hereinafter provided.*

SEC. 134. That no package weighing more than four pounds shall be received for conveyance by mail except books published or circulated by order of Congress.

SEC. 136. That the Postmaster-General may prescribe by regulation the manner of wrapping and securing for the mails all matter not charged with letter postage nor lawfully franked, so that it may be conveniently examined by postmasters; and if not so wrapped and secured, it shall be subject to letter postage.

SEC. 137. That postmasters at the office of delivery may remove the wrappers and envelopes from mail matter not charged with letter postage nor lawfully franked, when it can be done without destroying them, for the purpose of ascertaining whether there is upon or connected with any such matter anything which would authorize or require the charge of a higher rate of postage thereon.

SEC. 138. That no newspapers shall be received to be conveyed by mail unless they are sufficiently dried, and inclosed in proper wrappers.

SEC. 139. That where packages of newspapers or other periodicals are received at a post office, directed to one address, and the names of the subscribers to whom they belong, with the postage for a quarter in advance, is handed to the postmaster, he shall deliver such papers or periodicals to their respective owners.

SEC. 140. That postmasters shall notify the publisher of any newspaper or other periodical, when any subscriber shall refuse to take the same from the office, or neglect to call for it for the period of one month.

SEC. 141. That publishers of newspapers and periodicals may print or write upon their publications sent to regular subscribers the address of the subscriber and the date when the subscription expires, and may enclose therein bills and receipts for subscription thereto, without subjecting such publications to extra postage.

SEC. 142. That any person who shall enclose or conceal any letter, memorandum, or other thing in any mail matter not charged with letter postage, or make any writing or memorandum thereon, and deposit, or cause the same to be deposited, for conveyance by mail at a less rate than letter postage shall, for every such offence, forfeit and pay five dollars, and such mail matter or enclosure shall not be delivered until the postage is paid thereon at letter rates; but no extra postage shall be charged for a card printed or impressed upon an envelope or wrapper.

SEC. 148. That no obscene book, pamphlet, picture, print, or other publication of a vulgar or indecent character, or any letter upon the envelope of which, or postal card upon which scurrilous epithets may have been written or printed, or disloyal devices printed or engraved, shall be carried in the mail; and any person who shall knowingly deposit or cause to be deposited, for mailing or for delivery, any such obscene publication, shall be deemed guilty of misdemeanor, and, on conviction thereof, shall, for every such offence, be fined not more than five hundred dollars, or imprisoned not more than one year, or both, according to the circumstances and aggravation of the offence.

SEC. 151. That all mail matter deposited for mailing, on which at least one full rate of postage has been paid as required by law, shall be for-

for each two ounces, etc. On packages of greater weight letter postage is required.

Electrotype cuts are classed as matter of the third class, and are entitled to pass by mail at the prepaid postage of 2 cents for each two ounces, or fraction thereof, in packages to one address, limited to 12 ounces in weight.

Maps bound in book form (in stiff covers) must be rated at book rates of postage.

* Chromos, protected by thin boards, may be sent by mail in packages not exceeding twelve ounces in weight for 1 cent

warded to its destination, charged with the unpaid rate, to be collected on delivery.

SEC. 156. That on all mail matter which is wholly or partly in writing, except book manuscripts and corrected proofs passing between authors and publishers, and local or drop letters; on all printed matter which is so marked as to convey any other or further information than is conveyed by the original print, except the correction of mere typographical errors; on all matter which is sent in violation of law, or the regulations of the department respecting inclosures; and on all matter to which no specific rate of postage is assigned, postage shall be charged at the rate of three cents for each half-ounce or fraction thereof.

SEC. 158. That on newspapers and other periodical publications, not exceeding four ounces in weight, sent from a known office of publication to regular subscribers, postage shall be charged at the following rates per quarter, namely: on publications issued less frequently than once a week, at the rate of one cent for each issue; issued once a week, five cents; and five cents additional for each issue more frequent than once a week. And an additional rate shall be charged for each additional four ounces or fraction thereof in weight.

SEC. 161. That persons known as regular dealers in newspapers and periodicals may receive and transmit by mail such quantities of either as they may require, and pay the postage thereon as received, at the same rate, pro rata, as regular subscribers to such publications who pay quarterly in advance.

SEC. 162. That the Postmaster-General may prescribe by regulation, an affidavit, in form, to be taken by the publisher, or by the clerk, agent, or servant of the publisher, of any newspaper or other periodical which may by law be sent to regular subscribers without prepayment of postage at the mailing office, to the effect that neither he nor any other proprietor, clerk, agent, or employee, within his knowledge, will send, cause, or permit to be sent through the mail, without prepayment by postage stamps, any copies of such newspaper or periodical (naming it), except to bona fide and regular subscribers thereto; and if any such newspaper or periodical shall be thus unlawfully sent, with the knowledge or consent of such proprietor, or his agent, clerk, servant in charge of such business, or if such affidavit shall, when required by the Postmaster-General or any special agent of the post office department, be refused, the person guilty of the offence, or refusing to make the affidavit, shall forfeit and pay fifty dollars in each case.

SEC. 163. That on mailable matter of the third class, except as herein stated, postage shall be charged at the rate of one cent each two ounces or fraction thereof. Double these rates shall be charged for books, samples of metals, ores, minerals and merchandise.

SEC. 165. That the rate of United States postage on mail matter sent to or received from foreign countries with which different rates have not been established by postal convention or other arrangement, when forwarded by vessels regularly employed in transporting the mail, shall be ten cents for each half-ounce or fraction thereof on letters, unless reduced by order of the Postmaster-General; two cents each on newspapers; and not exceeding two cents per each two ounces, or fraction thereof, on pamphlets, periodicals, books and other printed matter, which postage shall be prepaid on matter sent and collected on matter received; and to avoid loss to the United States in the payment of balances, the Postmaster-General may collect the unpaid postage on letters from foreign countries in coin or its equivalent.

SEC. 170. That to facilitate letter correspondence and provide for the transmission of the mails, at a reduced rate of postage, of messages, orders, notices, and other short communications, either printed or written in pencil or ink, the Postmaster-General shall be, and he is hereby authorized and directed to furnish and issue to the public, with postage stamps impressed upon them, "postal cards," manufactured of good stiff paper, of such quality, form, and size as he shall deem best adapted for general use; which cards shall be used as a means of postal intercourse, under rules and regulations to be prescribed by the Postmaster-General, and when so used shall be transmitted through the mails at a postage charge of one cent each, including the cost of their manufacture.

SEC. 182. That all books or publications which may be procured or published by order of Congress shall be considered as public documents, and may be franked as such.

SEC. 184. That the following mail matter shall be allowed to pass free in the mail:

First. All mail matter sent to the President or Vice-President.

Second. Official communications addressed to chiefs, heads of bureaus, chief clerks, or franking officer of either of the executive departments.

Third. Letters and printed matter sent to senators, representatives, or delegates in Congress, the Secretary of the Senate, or the Clerk of the House of Representatives.

Fourth. Petitions to Congress.

Fifth. Copyright matter to the Librarian of Congress, if marked on the package "copyright matter."

Sixth. All publications sent or received by the Smithsonian Institution, marked on each package, "Smithsonian Exchange."

Seventh. Newspapers, periodicals, and magazines reciprocally interchanged between publishers and not exceeding sixteen ounces in weight; to be confined to a single copy of each publication.

Eighth. Weekly newspapers, one copy to each actual subscriber within the county where the same is printed and published; but carriers shall not be required to distribute such papers unless postage is paid upon them at the usual rates.

Ninth. Notice to the publishers of the refusal or neglect of subscribers to take newspapers, magazines, or other periodicals from the post office to be sent under such regulations as the Postmaster-General may prescribe.

Tenth. Dead letters returned to the writers thereof.

LITERARY AND TRADE GOSSIP.

"SANCHO PANZA'S Proverbs" is the descriptive title of a tastefully printed and entertaining volume edited by Mr. Ulick Ralph Burke, and published in London.

THE Positivist, George Henry Lewes, is said to be engaged with a work on Method.

THE Cobden Club has determined to publish Mr. Cobden's letters.

COUNT MOLTKE's official account of the war is in great demand, and the printers have had to work night and day to fill orders. The proceeds of the sales go to swell the Emperor William Fund, which is devoted to the relief of sufferers by the war. A supplementary statistical work is about to be published by the bureau of statistics.

A VOLUME of 900 pages is to be published in Leipzig, and contain all about the Copyright discussion.

A SERIES of historical sketches of early French

history, by the popular author of "On the Edge of the Storm," recently published in England, has been imported by Scribner, Welford & Armstrong, together with new and cheap editions of Gibbon's "Rome" and "The Romance of History."

GUSTAVE BOSSANGE has published a "Literary Annual" containing a classified catalogue of the principal publications issued in France during her disastrous years of 1870 and 1871. The catalogue, divided into fourteen departments, followed by an alphabetical index of authors, embraces 2,567 publications, of which the full titles are given, including the original prices, but unfortunately not the names of the publishers. It is very much to be regretted that the compiler, perhaps misled by commercial motives, should have omitted a feature which, especially in a catalogue of new books, is of vital importance. This deficiency not only renders the catalogue comparatively useless in the hands of dealers in foreign books (unless they should make their importations through Mr. Bossange); but it will be of much annoyance to the experienced book buyer who in the choice of his books is frequently guided by the name of a publisher whose very imprint may be to him a voucher for quality. As in all other respects the "Literary Annual" shows discrimination and care, it is to be hoped that the able compiler, in his forthcoming Annuals, will avoid this little sin of omission.

THE first important literary work printed in the United States was a translation of Ovid, by George Sandys. A collection of this author's poetical writings has just been published, with a memoir, in London.

A VOLUME of Leigh Hunt's fugitive writings has been gathered up by Mr. J. E. Babson, and will be published by Lee & Shepard, with the title "Wishing-Cap Papers."

MR. J. E. BABSON has been delving among old periodicals—the *Democratic Review*, the *New England Magazine*, *Graham's Magazine*, *Salem Gazette*, etc.—and will present as the result of his search, through Osgood & Co., this fall, Hawthorne's suppressed novel, "Fanchon," and a volume of the early pieces of the great romancer. The latter will contain, among other things, "A Book of Autographs," in which the signatures of noted men are made the texts for humorous discourses on their owner's characteristics; a description of the walk down Broadway of a man attired in a shroud, and the author's impressions at Niagara in 1837.

A NEW novel by Mr. W. D. Howells is to be begun with the new year in the *Atlantic*. The scene is laid mainly in Canada, and some of the characters of "Their Wedding Journey," are introduced.

"AN Encyclopædia of the Best Thoughts of Charles Dickens," compiled by F. G. Fontaine, is being published in semi-monthly numbers, by E. J. Hale & Son.

THE *Adventures of a Woman in Search of her Rights*, is the title of a collection of comic drawings, with explanatory annotations, by Florence Claxton. Lee & Shepard will reprint it from the English edition.

Two volumes of Prof. James de Mille's "B. O. W. C." series, and the second volume of his "Young Dodge Club" series, entitled "The Seven Hills of Rome," will be published in the autumn by Lee & Shepard.

"A HISTORY of the Declension and Prospective Fall of the Great Republic of the United States" is about to be published by an Indiana lady.

A NEW edition of Mayne's Medical Lexicon,

thoroughly revised, is to be issued shortly by the new Sydenham Society.

A NEW and finely printed eight-page daily has just been started in St. Louis, under the promising title of the *Daily Globe*, by Messrs. McKee, Houser & Co.

THE London *Newspaper Press* is now incorporated with the *Printers' Register*.

HONOR TO L. PRANG & Co.—How is it, says the London *Art Journal*, that these numerous art issues of a famous establishment in New York startle us by their merit and dispose us to admit that they go beyond those of the most eminent publishers of England? Certainly they do so, where they profess to be imitations of oil paintings; although as certainly they lack the refinement and accuracy of copies, of which we have had so many, after Birket Foster. Without instituting comparisons, we are bound to describe the chromo-lithographs of Messrs. Prang of Boston as of very great excellence—broad, artistic, true, and singularly effective; indeed, they may stand in the stead of paintings in any room, and pass muster as valuable examples of art. The list contains the titles of several hundred works; some of them after the old masters (notably the famous Virgin by Murillo, in the Madrid Gallery), some after English painters; the greater number, however, being from drawings and paintings by American artists, some of whom are familiar to us; with others we thus make acquaintance for the first time. It is probable that the best only have been submitted to us, and from these we form our opinion; more especially as concerns four prints—two pairs—which imitate paintings, and so closely as at first to deceive any observer into a belief that hand-paintings they undoubtedly are, and that of a high order.

THE Royal Academy of Lisbon and the Imperial Academy of St. Petersburg have presented their publications to the Strasbourg Municipal Library.

"UNLIKELY Tales and Wrong-Headed Essays" is the title of a new comic work by Mr. C. H. Ross, editor of the London *Judy*.

MAXIME DUCAMP has written a book, entitled "Paris, ses Organes et ses Fonctions." The leading French critics praise it highly.

FRITZ REUTER, the Low-German novelist, was recently offered a patent of nobility by the Emperor William of Germany, but declined it.

OSGOODS' fall announcements are promising: Dr. Holmes' "Poet at the Breakfast Table," Flagg's "Woods and By-Ways of New England," a volume of essays by Geo. B. Wood, the lively writer of "Town Talk" papers, Warner's "Back Log Studies," Emerson's "Poetry and Criticism," and "Myths and Myth-makers" by Prof. John Fiske, are all arrayed among the "essay" literature.

MRS. LEONOWENS, author of "the English Governess at the Siamese Court," has almost completed a book on "The Romance of the Harem." Osgood & Co. will issue it.

"OLD Landmarks and Historical Personages of Boston" is the title of a work of considerable local interest by S. A. Drake. It will be published by Messrs. Osgood & Co.

THE London *Athenæum* says: "A book which was printed and published in 1844, but which was never written, is about to be reprinted. Its author, Mr. Lordan, who exercises at Romsey 'the glorious art,' set up the types as he composed the work. Its title is 'Colloquies, Desultory, but chiefly upon Poetry and Poets.' Apart from its intrinsic merits, it is a curiosity, being the first unwritten book.

There is, indeed, a tradition that Retif de la Bretonne composed his 'Paysan Pervers' in the same way, but he was not himself the originator of the tradition. Mr. Lordan began his career 'at case' very early. Before he was five years of age he put in type a sheet of 'Paradise Lost,' and he is proud of the first proof of his handiwork, which is still in his possession."

SEVERAL eminent Leipsic and Stuttgart publishing-firms intend to establish branches in New York.

GEORGE CARY EGGLESTON, the editor of *Hearth and Home*, is preparing a guide for students, showing how and what to study and read. Putnam & Sons announce the work for September; and will present it in a cloth 16mo., price, 75 cents.

MESSRS. CLAXTON, REMSEN & HAFELFINGER have in press a story of life in France during the reign of Louis XIV., entitled "Belle Rose," by Mrs. Martha Lafitte Johnson, known as the author of a novel entitled "Annette," and of "Raymond the Patriot" and other plays.

PROF. J. D. WHITNEY, the State Geologist of California, is collecting the facts in regard to the late earthquake.

PERE HYACINTHE has in his possession the manuscript of a work by the late Count Montalembert, entitled "Spain and the Revolution," which he intends to publish shortly.

"A HUNDRED CITIES OF AMERICA" is the title of a forthcoming work from the press of J. B. Burr & Hyde, of Hartford, which will give complete detailed information about all the cities and largest towns in the United States.

UNDER the title of "The Rocky Mountain Saints," the Appletons will soon issue a history of Mormonism, by T. B. H. Stenhouse, an ex-Mormon elder.

ABOUT four or five American houses have announced Döllinger's Lectures on the Reunion of the Christian Churches. The last edition is by Pott, Young & Co.

A WORK on "Social Economy," by Prof. E. Thorold Rogers, will be issued in September by G. P. Putman & Son. Prof. Rogers is the Tooke Professor of Economic Science, at Oxford, England, and this little book of 150 pages, discussing the relations of men, the nature of property, capital, labor, money, government and business, cannot fail to be of value both as to the amount of information it will contain, and the simple clearness in which the principles will be set forth. It is especially intended for school use, but undoubtedly will be of service and interest to all readers. It will be a cloth 16mo., and sold for 75 cents.

Two Polish editions of Doré's Bible are published in Warsaw; for Catholics and Protestants.

A QUESTION of international copyright is before the German law courts in which English authors have some interest. The lady known in literature as "Ouida" has authorized editions of all her writings in the Tauchnitz collection. Her last volume of tales, which is shortly to appear in England, was first published in the United States, and has been reprinted, against her protest, by Messrs. Asher & Co., of Berlin. Two editions, therefore, are in the German market; and a law court will have to decide whether, from their point of view, an English author forfeits his copyright in England by first publishing in America.

THE prodigious scale on which the publishing operations of the Harpers have been and are conducted is shown in the latest pamphlet romance they have issued, namely, "A Golden Sorrow," by Mrs.

Cashel Hoey." The story is attractive enough, but the most noticeable thing about it is "No. 378" on its paper cover, indicating that 377 works of the kind have been previously published in "Harper's Library of Select Novels." The list begins with Bulwer's "Pelham," includes all his novels, and contains the best productions of Miss Bremer, G. P. R. James, Horace Smith, Lever, Mrs. Ellis, Mary Howitt, Mrs. Marsh, Mrs. Gaskell, Miss Brontë, Wilkie Collins, Mrs. Trollope, Miss Muloch, George Eliot, Miss Braddon, Mrs. Oliphant, Annie Thomas, George McDonald, Edmund Yates, Holme Lee, Anthony Trollope, Thackeray, and many other English romancers of the time. Each of the 378 novels was published in London at the price of a guinea and a half, and reprinted here at a price varying from fifty to seventy-five cents. We get some idea of the number of novels yearly published in England, when we reflect that "Harper's Library" is a mere selection from a throng of novels, three-quarters of which the publishers rejected as mediocre, or unsuited to American taste. All of the 378 are stereotyped, and are now gravely advertised as purchasable at the old price. But the "Library of Select Novels," large as it is, is but a very small portion of the books which the Harpers keep constantly on hand. They stereotype everything they publish. The question arises—"where do they store their plates?" This is a mystery which we cannot pretend to solve. Even in going over their immense building we are puzzled to find room where they can possibly lodge their old plates and books. We understand their capacity to produce or reproduce what is new; but how is it that they cheerfully offer to furnish copies of books they published twenty, and even thirty years ago? In what subterranean vaults, deeper than plummet ever sounded, are their stereotype plates deposited?

THE Osgoods are to issue soon a German campaign edition of Parton's "Life of Greeley." Not to be partial, they will publish also a campaign biography of Senator Wilson, written by Mr. Mann, and sanctioned by the honorable subject.

A NEW volume from Whittier is promised by Osgood & Co. It will contain a fresh poem, "The Pennsylvania Pilgrim," and the occasional pieces which have been written by the poet since the appearance of "Miriam."

A NEW contribution to the literature of Comparative Theology will be given to the public in September, through Osgood's publishing house—the first volume of an elaborate work on "Oriental Religions," by Rev. Samuel Johnson.

WE learn that Mr. Maguire, M. P. for Cork, is writing a work on the Jesuits.

HON. CHARLES W. TUTTLE, of Boston, is preparing a life of Captain John Mason, of England, the patentee and founder of New Hampshire.

THE burning of Mr. R. W. Emerson's house has called fresh attention to that pleasant and beautiful volume, "Homes of American Authors," now nearly out of print and consequently rare and valuable; and also to Miss Alcott's graphic "Concord Sketches." The last, a series of drawings of memorable scenes, is from the press of J. R. Osgood & Co.

A NEW historical book forthcoming is Mr. Wm. C. Armor's "Lives of the Governors of Pennsylvania, with the Incidental History of the State, from 1690 to 1872."

WE read in the *Athenaeum* that a lady, the last representative of the oldest established bookselling firm in Paris, Madame Maire-Nyon, has just died at the advanced age of eighty-five years. She was

a descendant of Guillaume Nyon, who set up business as a bookseller as far back as the year 1580, *i. e.*, in the reign of Henry the Third. Madame Maire-Nyon carried on business on the Quai Conti, where the family had resided since 1698, its then representative, Jean Luc Nyon, being married to Marie Anne Didot, daughter of Denis Didot, a merchant of Paris. It is interesting to note that Francois Didot, son of this Denis, started in business as a bookseller in 1713, and thus became the founder of the renowned firm of Didots, booksellers and publishers at Paris.

MR. JOSEPH MASON, a noted pen-maker of Birmingham, England, recently invited half-a-dozen of his fellow townsmen to his house, and quietly made over to them, as trustees, for the establishment of an orphanage, a building worth \$300,000, with endowments amounting to \$1,000,000. Mr. Mason began life in humble circumstances, and the munificent gift represented the labor of his own hands.

THE *Revue des Deux Mondes*, in a recent article on Mark Twain, takes the "Innocents Abroad" quite seriously, as indicating a hopeless incapacity in Mark to comprehend art, to sympathize with the antique, or appreciate the æsthetic. This is quite as bad as the reception by the American press of Mark's *Saturday Review* burlesque, printed in the *Galaxy*.

CARL GUTZKOW finds great favor with the German critics through his new novel "Fritz Ellrodt."

JEAN LEMOINNE, the Parisian journalist, has written a life of Eugene Sue, the novelist, which contains some curious discourses about the private affairs of that wonderfully-successful writer.

GUSTAVE DORE has overworked himself, and is suffering the consequences.

The Mechanical Oarsman.

THIS unique toy was introduced early in the season by the manufacturers, Messrs. Ives & Blakelee of Bridgeport, Conn., whose names have become familiar to the trade as the manufacturers of the famous Hot Air Toys, worked by the toy steam engines, which for some time past have adorned the shop-windows and amused thousands of juvenile Americans, and many more of maturer age. Mr. N. Warner of the same city is the inventor, and deserves great praise for his mechanical ingenuity and skilful imitation.

The toy is an exact miniature representation of a genuine oarsman. The boat is made of heavy tin plate, with an adjustable rudder to direct its course in straight or curved lines. The image in the boat is rigged in full sporting costume, and when in operation moves naturally and gracefully. The machinery, consisting of clock-work, is entirely hid from view, and will run for ten or fifteen minutes, propelling the little craft some five hundred feet. The "dip" is one of its peculiar features; the joints of the body are so admirably arranged as to perform this motion in a style strongly suggestive of the Josh Ward stroke, which many an ambitious amateur will envy and vainly seek to imitate. The boat is well shaped and tastefully painted, and the oarsman carries an air of importance and impatience which the word "go" will fully demonstrate. As the little "Gem," with flying colors sails smoothly over the surface with its miniature manager, the sight is truly wonderful and pleasing. Humanity seems to be stamped upon every motion of the rower, leading one to suspect the sudden appearance of some distinguished visitor from Liliputian land. A glance at

the deceptive little fellow would throw Gulliver into raptures. This toy, by its completeness and durability, its readiness for use and as the source of perpetual enjoyment, will be received as the toy of the day; indeed Young America has already pronounced upon it, judging from the rapid and constant sales in this city. Parents will hail it as a panacea for many anxious thoughts concerning the whereabouts of their hopefuls; while the boys in their ecstasy will declare it "a thing of beauty and a joy forever."

We predict a large sale for the oarsman. Dealers who contemplate keeping it for sale can obtain a suitable basin for the purpose of its exhibition from the manufacturers at a trifling expense, which they supply at cost. A glance at their finely-illustrated catalogue will convince any one that that sagacious and appreciative old toy-dealer, Santa Claus, did a wise act when he telegraphed to the above-named firm, "Be sure to have my whole order ready early in December."

Specifications of American Patents.

DETACHABLE ERASER FOR PENCILS.—(No. 126,792, May 14.) William K. Evans, of New York.—This eraser can be reversed in a tube or receiver when not in use, so that the end covered by the case or zone shall be outside or exposed, whereby the operating end, being wholly concealed, will be kept clean and free from dirt, and the pencil-case can be thus carried in the pocket or be exposed on the table without the working end of the eraser being liable to become soiled.

PEN-HOLDER TIP.—(No. 127,113, May 21.) Daniel M. Somers, of Brooklyn, N. Y.—This invention relates to what are known as barrel-tube pen-holder tips; and consists in the novel construction of such tip of a single piece of sheet metal, whereby its cost is reduced, partly by the reduction of the number of machines and mechanical manipulations necessary for its production, and partly by its being enabled, without detriment to its efficiency and durability, to be made of a quality of metal inferior to what is necessary for the manufacture of its two barrels separately from separate pieces of metal, and whereby, also, greater stiffness of the butt and security of the nib are obviated.

LETTER-SHEET BLANKS.—(No. 127,330, May 28.) Addison C. Fletcher, of New York.—The invention consists in the conformation of a letter-sheet in such manner that when folded, the flap, by the use of mucilage, or having been previously gummed, is made to adhere to both the inner fold and back portion of the folded sheet, so that while the script on the inner side could not be deciphered without much difficulty, the folded sheet could be sufficiently bowed to show that no additional matter was illegally inclosed.

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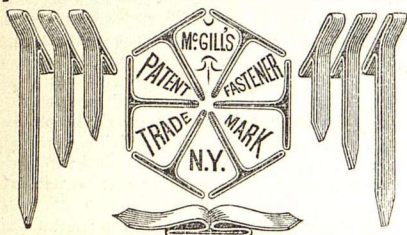
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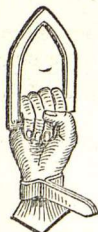
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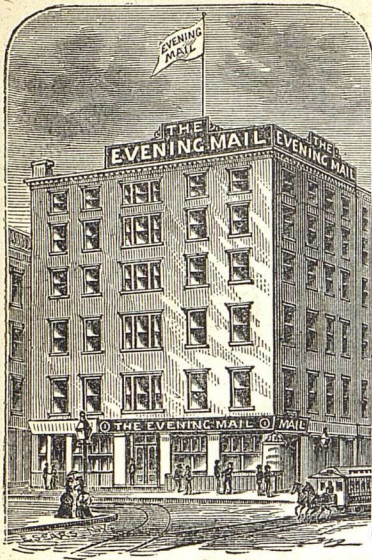
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